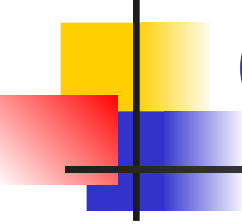


***“The road is stony and filled with obstacles,
but the journey is infinitely rewarding.”***

CIS & Mongolia Geographical Group

Haifa, Israel, 24-27 December, 2007



CIS & Mongolia

- Current state of the Region
- Achievements. Learnings. Challenges
- Projected launch dates
- Strategies to go forward

Current state of the Region





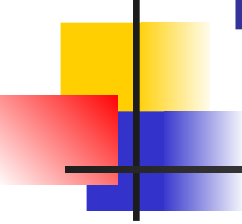
Achievements - 1

1. 3-month cycles in 98% of priority clusters
2. Resource persons for expansion identified (80), trained (25) and utilized (53)
3. Most of the ABMs are becoming resource persons for Expansion
4. Experience of Intensive teaching campaigns with all constituents replicated in most of the priority clusters and resulted in significant breakthrough in the number of enrollments
5. Significantly increased number of believers using Anna's presentation in teaching
6. Publication of teaching albums and other useful tools



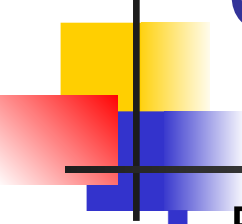
Achievements - 2

7. Initial consolidation efforts during expansion phase (Yakutsk, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Mongolia) and immediately after it proved successful
8. Homefront pioneers settled in receptive neighborhood in 2 clusters
9. Unprecedented enrollment of junior youth in Baku (165 – one cycle)
10. Increased capacity to handle cases of severe opposition during teaching
11. Close collaboration among Counsellors in a complementary manner



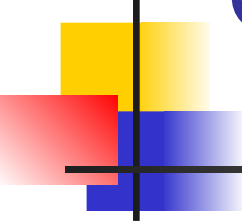
Learning

1. Consolidation successful when started during Expansion phase and based on thorough planning
2. Learning, experiences, resources instantly shared across the Region leading to accelerated growth
3. International deployment of resource persons has increased their effectiveness in their own clusters
4. Utilization of short-term pioneers from Iran has been mutually beneficial and should be continued
5. Orientation of resource persons through well-designed training creating sense of mission - the main factor for effective teaching campaigns in less advanced clusters
6. Launch of 3-month cycles and deployment of resource persons in less advanced clusters resulted in shift in mindset that shortens the road to IPG



Challenges-1

- Ensuring immediate consolidation during and following expansion in a systematic way
- Growing severe opposition (Central Asia, Azerbaijan)
- Increasing the ability of the tutors to accompany friends through the whole sequence, especially higher levels
- Increasing the ability to enrol new believers and seekers into intensive institute course
- Developing capacity of the Cluster Growth Committee and the facilitator to administer growth
- Sustaining large number of junior youth in the groups and reaching out to their parents
- Depending on a handful of capable believers in the cluster makes growth vulnerable



Challenges- 2

- Ensuring commitment to long-term action and understanding about coherence among various lines of action
- Identifying and mobilizing homefront pioneers to receptive neighbourhoods
- Devolving certain tasks of growth process onto the Local Spiritual Assemblies
- Low capacity at cluster level to collect, compile and use statistical information on regular basis



Criteria for IPG launching

- Book 7 graduates: 20
- Tutors: 10
- Animators: 5
- Children's class teachers: 5
- Participants in direct teaching activity: 20
- Basic capacity of cluster agencies to facilitate growth
- Minimum enrolments: 10 in previous cycles
- Experience in involving good percentage of new believers in the institute process
- Experience with all core activities

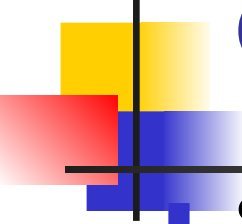
Projected launch dates- till Ridvan 2008



<u>Date</u> <u>s</u>	<u>Feb 08</u>	<u>Mar 08</u>	<u>Apr 08</u>	<u>May 08</u>
1-7		Samarkand Uz	Uliastai Mn	
8-14	Seminar Bishkek Kg Launch		Tbilisi Ge Toson. Mn	
15- 21			Kazan Ru Novosib. Ru Khovd Mn Sumgayit Az Batumi Ge	Baganuur Mn
22- 30		St.Peters. Ru Darkhan Mn	Karaganda Kz Dushanbe Tj	Yakutsk Ru

Projected launch dates- till Ridvan 2011

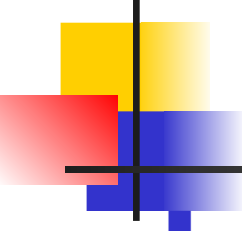
Area	<u>Ridvan 09</u>	<u>Ridvan 10</u>	<u>Ridvan 11</u>
Caucasus	Yerevan	Rustavi, Telavi, Sabunchi	Aragatsutn, Shuakhevi, Nakhchivan
Central Asia	Astana, Kokshetau, Temirtau	Taldy-Kurgan, Petropavlovsk, Uralsk, Jizzakh, Dinau, Shymkent, Mary	Qarshi, Kanibadam, Osh, Tokmok, Ashqabad
Mongolia	Yesonbulag, Sukhbaatar, Choibalsan, Tsetserleg	Dalanzadgad, Erdenet	
Russia	Vladivostok, Chita, Krasnoyarsk	Tobolsk, Krasnodar, Angarsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	Perm, Khabarovsk, Selenginsk
Total	11	16	11

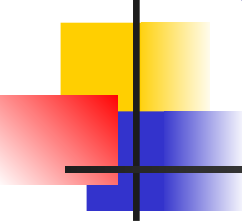


Key Strategies to go forward - Current 11 IPGs

- Strengthen capacity of cluster agencies to administer expansion and consolidation
- Utilize various types of resource persons
- Identify receptive neighbourhoods and settle homefront pioneers to establish community-building process
- Utilize international short-term pioneers
- Establish Learning sites for JYSEP (Khujand, Murun, Baku)
- Establish learning sites for Expansion/Consolidation (Bishkek, Almaty, Novosibirsk, Baku)

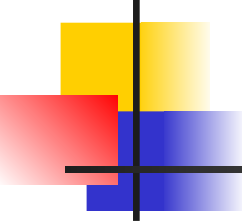
Key Strategies for 4 months- Clusters Launching 15 IPGs by Ridvan 08

- 
-
- Identify, train, utilize resource persons for expansion and consolidation for 17 clusters
 - Seminar in Bishkek, 8-10 February 2008
 - 2-week mobilization of RP for expansion
 - 7-10-day mobilization of RP for consolidation
 - Active refresher courses for tutors, animators, CC teachers, on Book 6 in the clusters
 - Establish Cluster Growth Committee
 - Train cluster agencies in basic skills of administering growth, e.g. statistics, reflection meeting organization, planning campaigns, provision of literature, budgeting, etc.
 - Identify and empower 1-2 local friends, potential resource persons



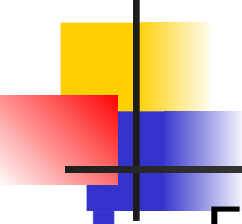
Key Strategies to go forward- Clusters Launching 40 IPG by Ridvan 11

- Continue utilizing resource persons for expansion and consolidation to help the clusters to work in 3-month cycles
- Settle homefront and international pioneers
- Identify and train 1-2 local friends as potential resource persons
- Continue inviting friends to advanced cluster for intensive courses and expansion phase activities
- Continue sending visiting tutors to build the pyramid of human resources



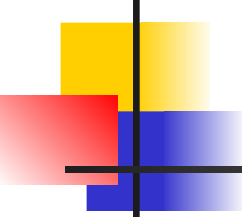
Consolidation

- Consolidation starts within expansion phase
- Consolidate all interested, enrolled or not
- Not to leave the new believer or seeker even for one day
- Assign for each person someone who can accompany
- Consolidation in 2 stages



Consolidation- Stage 1

- Establish friendship and loving relationship
- Pray daily for each of new believers and seekers
- Invite to Ruhi 1 and start immediately
- If not possible to start Ruhi 1, start sharing deepening themes
- Help them to start teaching their own family and contacts
- Invite them to attend a community event: unity feast, Holy Days in the neighbourhood
- Show videos materials (Building Momentum)
- Give audio, portrait of Abdul-Baha or Holy Places
- Use art, learn Baha'i prayers and songs
- Engage them in service project for larger community

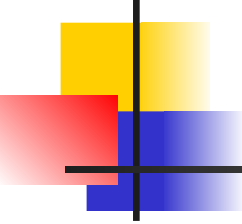


Consolidation- Stage 2

2 categories of people emerge:

Category 1. Those proceeding further after Book 1 through sequence of courses

Category 2. Those who did not continue sequence, and need to be integrated into and maintained in community life



Consolidation- Stage 2

Category 2

- Establish friendship and loving relationship
- Visit regularly (at least once in quarter) to share news, say prayers together, distribute newsletter, books, audio-visual materials, etc.
- Invite to 19 Day Feasts, Holy Days, etc.
- Invite to pilgrimage
- Regularly update their contact information
- Share status of the Fund, give information about the channels they can use to contribute